

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGRE-00
AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DLOS-06
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00
H-01 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
NSF-01 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
SAL-01 /128 W

-----110747Z 120422 /10

R 110705Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6061

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 3448

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, JA, PFOR, UR

SUBJECT: JAPAN-USSR FISHERY NEGOTIATIONS

REF: TOKYO 2001, TOKYO 2739, TOKYO 3069

1. SUMMARY: MATSUURA OF JFA HAS CONFIRMED THAT A PROVISIONAL FISHING AGREEMENT BETWEEN JAPAN AND USSR MUST BE REACHED BY THE END OF MARCH THIS YEAR AND THAT A LONG TERM AGREEMENT SHOULD BE IN PLACE BY THE END OF THIS YEAR ALTHOUGH JAPAN MAY HAVE TROUBLE GETTING DIET APPROVAL BY THEN. ALL INDIVCATIONS ARE THAT THESE UPCOMING FISHERY NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE MOST SEVERE FOR JAPAN. ALREADY SALMON AND HERRING FISHERIES HAVE BEEN BANNED IN THE SOVIET ZONE IN MARCH AND THERE ARE SOME INDICATIONS THE BAN WILL NOT BE LIFTED AFTER MARCH. END SUMMARY.

2. YESTERDAY MATSUURA OF JAPAN FISHERY AGENCY BRIEFED FISHATT ON RECENT JAPAN-USSR FISHERY NEGOTIATIONS. HE REVIEWED EVENTS COMMENCING 8 FEBRUARY UNTIL NOW, WHICH HAVE BEEN COVERED IN REFERENCES. HE INDICATED THAT THOUGH THE NEGOTIATIONS SO FAR
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HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT IN A FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE THEY HAVE BEEN SEVERE CONCERNING JAPANESE FISHING. HE CONFIRMED THE FOLLOWING:

A. A PROVISIONAL AGREEMENT FOR FISHING BY JAPAN IN THE SOVIET 200-MILE ZONE FOR THE REMAINDER OF 1977 MUST BE REACHED BY THE END OF MARCH. THIS AGREEMENT WILL COVER ALL SPECIES EXCEPT SALMON AND HERRING. THE MEETING TO DEVELOP THIS AGREEMENT WILL COMMENCE

15 MARCH IN MOSCOW.

B. THE ANNUAL JAPAN-USSR COMMISSION MEETING WILL BE HELD 15 MARCH IN TOKYO AND WILL COVER THE JAPANESE SALMON AND HERRING FISHERIES. HE EXPECTS THE USSR TO DEPOSIT NOTICE OF TERMINATION OF THE TREATY ESTABLISHING THIS COMMISSION IN THE NEAR FUTURE. AT THE COMMISSION MEETING, SOME PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION WILL BE HELD ON AN APPROACH TO DEVELOP A LONG TERM AGREEMENT. NEGOTIATIONS TO DEVELOP THE LONG TERM AGREEMENT WILL START SOON AFTER THE MEETINGS IN MARCH HAVE ENDED. THE USSR REPEATEDLY ADVISED GOJ IN MOSCOW EARLY THIS MONTH THAT A LONG TERM AGREEMENT MUST BE REACHED BY THE END OF 1977. GOJ ADVISED USSR THAT VERY SERIOUS PROBLEMS EXIST IN GETTING DIET APPROVAL THIS YEAR.

C. SALMON AND HERRING FISHERIES HAVE BEEN TERMINATED DURING MARCH THIS YEAR BY JAPAN IN THE USSR ZONE. THOUGH PRESS REPORTS SUGGEST THE BAN ON HERRING WILL NOT BE LIFTED AFTER MARCH, MATSUURA SAID THAT THIS HAS NOT YET BEEN AGREED TO ALTHOUGH IT IS A STRONG POSSIBILITY. HERRING CATCHES IN THOUSANDS OF METRIC TONS IN THE SOVIET 200-MILE ZONE IN RECENT YEARS ARE AS FOLLOWS: 1973 -44.5; 1974 - 46.0; 1975 - 47.6; AND 1976 - APPROXIMATELY 22.0. THE MORNING PRESS TODAY SUGGESTS THAT THE SOVIETS ALSO HAVE NO INTENTION OF LIFTING THE BAN ON SALMON FISHING AFTER MARCH.

3. MATSUURA MENTIONED SEVERAL TIMES THAT HE FEELS THE UPCOMING TALKS IN MOSCOW WILL BE MOST SEVERE. THIS STEMS FROM THE USSR REPEATED REFERENCES EARLY THIS MONTH TO (A) THE PROBLEM THEY NOW FACE IN MAINTAINING CATCHES DUE TO ACTION OF U.S. AND OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH CLAIM EXTENDED FISHING JURISDICTION AND TO

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(B) THE LARGE FISHING FLEET OF THEIR COUNTRY AND THE NEED FOR THIS FLEET TO FISH SOMEWHERE. THE USSR FISHERY ZONE WILL HAVE TO BE THE MAINSTAY OF SOVIET FISHING ACTIVITIES IN THE FUTURE.

4. MATSUURA HOPES THE MEETING IN MARCH WILL STEER CLEAR OF THE DISPUTED ISLANDS ISSUE. HE VIEWS THIS ISSUE AS "EXPLOSIVE" AND COULD BE DISASTROUS TO ATTEMPTS TO REACH FISHERY AGREEMENTS. SHOESMITH

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Sent Date: 11-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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